581 «young lady», in olden days meant also weasel, and the [825] Hungarian word for ermine is «hölgy»-weasel. The people call the weasel «lady weasel» whether it be a «he» or a «she». In consequence of some atavistic survival it is considered a «she» to such an extent, that if a weasel, that is a «lady» weasel gets busy round the hen-coop a little hemp ball is placed in it, so that when «she» comes, she shall see her accustomed feminine implement and spin rather than harm a fellow woman! An even better proof is the fact that a whole series of Hungarian words, all connected with marriage, have become common everyday words on the basis of the word «menyét» i. e. weasel. Such are meny, meaning daughter-in-law; menyekző: marriage; menyasszony: 585 bride; menyecske: young woman. Innumerable symbolic memories of the purchase of women are still alive 581 in Hungarian weddings. They attempt to kidnap, or for fun even actually kidnap, the bride; they besiege her house, all kinds of obstacles are placed before the wedding procession, even shots are fired. The best men have to do all sorts of difficult things and they also have to solve riddles. — On the other hand, several things have to be paid for to this day: entrance into the house where the wedding takes place, for fetching the bride's belongings, for dancing with the bride; moreover women who help in the kitchen have to be paid, and so on.

585 In certain districts of Hungary the cock plays a great part in a wedding. A cock is led at the head of the wedding procession, or the bridegroom carries one in his hand; or cocks are made of sugar or sweets. — In other parts jugglers enliven the wedding by performing funny tricks invented for the occasion, in a few places we find beautiful pageants.

One of the most important events in a wedding is taking off the wreath, it is the symbolic ceremony through

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The end of life

761 We are all in God's hands: our time will be up one day, our candle burnt out, our star have vanished from the sky, just as it is set out in the Book of Fate... When the Great Reaper comes, the soul flies away, and the body starts on its last journey.

«There is no medecine against death,
Neither in the Pharmacy, nor else where...»

is one of the ways in which popular songs attempt to
763 console the mourners. When the hour of death has struck, man is drawn to the earth, he longs for it as though contact with it would deliver him from every evil, relieve him from his suffering, ease his last breath... The sick person is taken off the bed, and laid on the floor on a mat covered with a sheet. There he wrestles with death,
● [825] until his soul is liberated, and leaves his body. An owl, herald of death, hoots on the chimney: this bird of mourning is supposed to fly away following the dead person's soul, and it comes back with any new-born's soul. Its hoots are a ghostly presage, almost a signpost of the departing soul. People who hear it shudder, yet it is forbidden to cry in the presence of a dieing person, as tears might keep him back, making his departure more difficult; he might not be able to die because his soul would find it too hard to part with life.

761 It is not wise to play with death: the child must not
784 lie on his tummy, the owl must be driven away from the chimney; in our dream we must not have our teeth pulled out, nor must we sing funeral hymns without good reason, nor seat thirteen people at one table...